

NOTES ON CYCHRUS AND THE SAD MISFORTUNES  
OF AN ENTOMOLOGIST\*

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In regard to *Cychnus heros*, I have not seen one alive for years and only saved four from Kentucky, no two of which are alike. Over in Campbell Co., Kentucky, opposite Cincinnati, across the Ohio River, at one time they occurred in numbers. We laid flat stones along the edge of a bit of woods and got about seventy-five by going to the traps every day. The late Charles Siewers once had about twenty-five pinned on a board and put them in the warm oven to dry. His wife started a fire and roasted the whole bunch. He never remembered them until he smelled something burning. He lived near the locality and so was able to get many more than I did. I gave my duplicates away until only the four were left. After Siewers' death I never collected over there so don't know if they can be found there or not. I have taken single specimens in eastern Kentucky and near Chattanooga, Tennessee, but they differ from the Cincinnati form, which varies in color from bright deep blue to purple, and the thoracic shield is shaped differently. Mr. Ernest Shoemaker of Brooklyn, N. Y., sent me two *shoemakeri* from Virginia. They belong to this complex. Mr. H. P. Loding, of Mobile, gets them in north Alabama, though I don't know how abundantly. A long series from Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio, will show that these are all the same species.

At Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, *Cychnus* were once abundant, but the last time I was there I found the country had been all burned over and I was able to find only one variety of *heros* and two other smaller species. On the Ohio side of the river *C. heros* is decidedly scarce, as are the other three species taken here, namely, *canadensis*, *lecontei* and *gemari*. I once chopped about

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\*These notes were originally sent to Warren Knaus, McPherson, Kansas, in the form of a letter.

thirty *gemari* out of a large log in Clermont Co., Ohio. Two years ago I visited the same woods, but did not find any, although the woods is yet intact. May and early June is their time.

After Siewers roasted his *Cychrus*, I went over one day and brought a box of specimens for him. To clear the small table, he placed a board on which he had pinned five or six *Cychrus heros* and a lot of *Dryobius*, collected the day before, on his chair. After looking at the things I had brought, he forgot his board and sat down on it! He jumped up with a yell, but the specimens were ruined, and the seat of his pants was bristling with pins and beetles. He was one of the most successful collectors I ever knew, but his material never benefitted him or anybody else.